Cancellation of export licences of adulterated chilli exporters

4. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cancelled export licences of four exporters over the issue of Sudam dye adulterated chilli finding its way to market abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to guard against such acts of adulteration which bring a bad name to our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Spices Board has cancelled the Certificate of Registration as Exporter (CRES) of the following four Exporters

- M/s. Guatam Export Corporation, Mumbai
- M/s. Patons Exports, Mumbai.
- M/s. Volga Spices & Masala Mills Private Limited, Mumbai.
- M/s. S. G. Spice & Seed Trading Company Private Limited, Mumbai.

(c) Government has taken following action to prevent such acts of adulteration:

- The Spices Board (Registration of Exporters) Regulations, 1989 have been amended to ensure strict compliance with the existing food safety laws.
- Spices Board has started conducting mandatory sampling of all chilli and chilli-products export consignments from India and testing it for Sudan I, II, III and IV and aflatoxin. Consignments of turmeric prepared for exports to major destinations are also brought within this regime since May, 2005.
- The Quality Evaluation Laboratory of the Spices Board has been strengthened to ensure smooth implementation of mandatory regime for testing and sampling.
- The export trade is encouraged to set up their own testing facilities

and to monitor various stages of procurement, storage, transportation, processing and packaging in the food chain.

- Major chilli producing states had also been advised to initiate and sustain action with the specific objective of preventing use of Sudan I by the food industry.

Trade target

5. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has set a trade target of $ 500 bl. by 2008-09, as against the last year of $ 185;

(b) what is the export target for the current fiscal; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to achieve the above target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government has been setting targets for exports. No targets are set for imports of total trade. During 2004-05 a target of US $ 75 billion was set for exports. Against this target, exports crossed US $ 80 billion. India's imports reached US $109 billion during the same period, as a result of which total trade touched US $ 190 billion last year. India's export target for 2008-09, as announced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2004-09 is US $ 150 billion.

(b) The export target for the current fiscal has been fixed at US $ 92 billion.

(c) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to promote exports. These *inter-alia,* include bringing into force the SEZ Act 2005 to trigger a larger flow of foreign and domestic investment in infrastructure and productive capacity; setting up of Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) which would get all the benefits available with SEZs; giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction cost of exporters, and signing regional trade agreements to leverage exports in line with India's comparative advantage.